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(not entered)

She Saw God

BY MRS. CLARENCE STEINERT

SCENE I

The scene is laid in a living room. The characters are two young women missionaries and a native nurse.

FIRST MISSIONARY (1ST M.): It looks as though that sun has it in for us. My, it is warm already!

SECOND MISSIONARY (2ND M.): Yes, it is. What time do you have? It must be almost time for me to get over to the school. My watch must have stopped.

1ST M.: I have 7:30. Here comes your school nurse.

NURSE (*enters*): Salaam, Ammah.

2ND M.: Salaam, Nurse-ammah. Is something wrong?

NURSE: Ammah, little Lakshmi from our sixth grade came to me. She says her mother is sick and she seems very frightened. She wants me to go see her.

2ND M.: But why? Is it something serious?

NURSE: Ammah, she says her mother went out last evening to see her mother who is sick and she came home alone after dark. It seems her father was out of town yesterday. And then, Ammah, she says her mother saw god for she is ill this morning with cholera.

1ST M.: She saw God? What does she mean, Nurse?

NURSE: They believe, Ammah, that the god walks the village streets after dark and if anyone sees the god, he becomes angry and causes sickness.

2ND M.: How could she see him?

NURSE: She doesn't know how she saw him or where or when. The god knows that he was seen and is therefore angry.

2ND M.: Poor, fear-ridden people! Go along, Nurse. Did the father send for you?

NURSE: No, Ammah. The father has not yet come home and her relatives have left her. I'll go, Ammah. Salaam.

2ND M.: And I must get over to the school.

1ST M.: I'll go out and see about the Bible Women. Maybe they can help.

Exeunt

SCENE II

Same as Scene I, but in the evening.

1ST M.: How are things in the village now? Have you heard?

2ND M.: The people who are well are moving out. There seems to be quite a number of sick and dying.

1ST M.: Did the doctor come?

2ND M.: No, he was busy in another village. The nurse did all she could. She has been working very hard all day.

1ST M.: The Bible Women went to help her but they haven't come back yet. Oh, here comes the nurse. My, she looks tired.

NURSE (*enters*): Salaam, Ammah.

2ND M.: Salaam, Nurse-ammah. How goes the work in the village?

NURSE: Lakshmi's mother is better since you were there this morning, Ammah. Many have died. They are so ignorant and so frightened.

1ST M.: So you went over.

2ND M.: Yes, I got there right after you did. I couldn't stay long because of the school.

1ST M.: I would have stayed longer if I could have helped. However, I felt more in the way than a help, I'm so new here. The Bible Women stayed after I came back.

NURSE: They were a wonderful help. They were so willing and loving. The village has been deserted by the healthy, now.

2ND M.: You may go and have your meal, now. The others will carry on during the night. You get a good rest for there will be more work on the morrow. I'll come with you and you can tell me about any medication to be given in the school tonight.

1ST M.: It is such a terrible disease. They go so quickly. They say that in twenty-four hours you are either well or dead. And they blame it on a god.

Curtain

SCENE III

Same scene as I and II. Characters are FIRST MISSIONARY and WOMAN, Lakshmi's mother.

1ST M.: Come in, Ammah.

WOMAN: Salaam, Ammah.

1ST M.: Well, so you have been baptized. You and your husband and your little girl.

WOMAN: Yes, Ammah. It is truly wonderful. One night I go out of the house after dark and they tell me that because I fell sick, I saw god.

1ST M.: You were being punished for having seen god. That is what you believed, isn't it?

WOMAN: Yes, Ammah.

1ST M.: Do you believe that now?

WOMAN: No, Ammah.

1ST M.: You now know that you cannot see God, don't you, Ammah?

WOMAN: No, Ammah.

1ST M. (*in surprise*): Why do you say that?

WOMAN: Oh, Ammah. I *did* see God. But it was in the daytime. I saw Him shining in the eyes of the nurse. I felt Him in the fingers of the Bible Women who washed me and gave me medicine. And I heard Him in your voice when you came and talked to me of Jesus. Oh, it was lovely and sweet and wonderful. Now I am His. (*Pause*) Oh, Ammah, I *have* seen God.

Curtain

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